

United States Government

Department of Energy

Bonneville Power Administration

memorandum

DATE: September 30, 2003

REPLY TO
ATTN OF: KEC-4

SUBJECT: Supplement Analysis for the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265/SA-124)

TO: Lee Watts
Fish and Wildlife Project Manager, KEWL-4

Proposed Action: Implement Fisheries Enhancement Opportunities on the Coeur d'Alene Reservation

Project No: 1990-044-00

Watershed Management Techniques or Actions Addressed Under This Supplement Analysis (See App. A of the Watershed Management Program Final EIS): 1.1 Modeling the effects of river channelization; 1.3 Restoration of channelized river and stream reaches; 1.4 Pre-implementation evaluation of proposed enhancements; 1.6 Install large woody debris structures; 1.8 Bank protection through vegetation management; 1.9 Structural bank protection using bioengineering methods; 1.13 Culvert removal/replacement to improve fish passage; 1.17 Rearing habitat enhancements; 2.1 Maintain healthy riparian plant communities; 2.2 Plant/protect conifers in riparian areas for thermal cover; 2.3 Creation of wetlands to provide near-channel habitat and store water for later use; 2.14 Enhance large woody debris recruitment; 10.11 Provide alternative sport fishing locations

Location: Benewah Creek watershed, Coeur d'Alene Indian Reservation, Benewah County, Idaho

Proposed by: Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Coeur d'Alene tribe

Description of the Proposed Action: The Bonneville Power Administration is proposing to fund a fish passage enhancement and stream/riparian area restoration project with the Coeur d'Alene Tribe located in the Benewah Creek watershed, Idaho. The objective of this stream enhancement project is to protect wild fish stocks by restoring native habitats and improving the function of key watershed processes. Removing and mitigating the causes of habitat degradation will increase production of westslope cutthroat trout.

The 'Construction and Implementation Phase' of the proposed project includes the following habitat and instream actions: the replacement of an existing culvert at Windfall Creek, restoration of approximately 30 acres of native riparian forest plant communities within the 100-year floodplain of Benewah Creek; the excavation of approximately 7.2 acres of backwater wetland/side-channel habitat to maximize wetland area and over winter rearing habitats for cutthroat trout; and placement of approximately 50,000 board feet of large wood material to increase floodplain roughness.

The ‘Operation and Maintenance Phase’ of the proposed project includes, in addition to an education campaign, the implementation of a fish stocking strategy at Worley pond and other “put and take” fishing sites on the Reservation whereby 1,000 to 3,00 fish will be planted at each site. Pond cleaning and maintenance activities are also included in the fish stocking strategy.

During the ‘Monitoring and Evaluation Phase,’ routine trend monitoring will occur to quantify changes in chemical and biological attributes in the target tributaries, and their associated riparian habitats, over time. Population estimates of remaining stocked westslope cutthroat trout will be completed by seining out remaining fish at the end of the season. Monitoring of stream flow, water temperature, nitrate and hydrolab parameters at 21 sites in the restoration target drainages will occur. Quantitative estimates of abundance, distribution and other biological data will be collected for cutthroat and brook trout and other salmonids in each of four target watersheds. A summary of all project activities will be completed.

Analysis: The compliance checklist for this project was completed by Angelo Vitale with the Coeur d’Alene Tribe on September 9, 2003, and meets the standards and guidelines for the Watershed Management Program Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD).

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) listed species that may occur in the general vicinity of the project area are grey wolf, bald eagle, Canada lynx, bull trout, water howelia and Ute ladies’ tresses. Pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, BPA submitted a Biological Assessment (BA) for this project to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) in July, 1999. A determination of “may affect, but not likely to adversely affect” was made for bald eagle and bull trout. USFWS concurred and issued Section 10 permit in 1999; an amended permit was issued in January, 2001.

The proposed project site lies partially on a 411 acre piece of property obtained in 2001 by the Coeur d’Alene Tribe with BPA funds; this property was called the Johnson Property, Benewah Valley, Idaho (BPA Project #1992-061-06). In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, Kathryn Arneson of the Spokane Tribal Cultural Preservation Office completed a cultural resources survey of the Johnson Property Project site in 2001. The cultural resource study covered all areas proposed for ground disturbance. The project site was found to “indicat[e] the presence of differing, chronological periods including pre-contact for the *Schitsu’umsh*, the Removal Period, and historic logging activities within the Benewah drainage.” Based on these findings, Ms. Arneson recommended “monitoring by a trained archaeological technician and Tribal Elder, under the supervision of a professional archaeologist, of future earth-disturbing projects that might be planned for the acquired property.” In following these recommendations: Kathryn Arneson was re-hired as an on-call archaeologist for this project. Felix Aripa, a Tribal Elder, will act as on-site archaeological monitor; he has over 15 years of project experience monitoring for cultural resources and, as such, exceeds the minimum requirements for on-site monitor. In the event that archaeological or historic materials are discovered during project activities, work in the immediate vicinity will be discontinued and the area secured until the finds can be inspected and assessed by Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the Coeur d’Alene Tribe.

Standard water quality protection procedures and Best Management Practices will be followed during the implementation of dredging, filling, and culvert placement activities. Construction is only authorized under the conditions and restrictions outlined in the: USFWS ESA Section 10 permit, the US Army Corp of Engineers Clean Water Act (CWA) Permit Authorizations, the U.S.

EPA National Pollutant Discharge Eliminations System (Stormwater) requirements, the U.S. EPA CWA Section 401 Water Quality Certifications, and the National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 Requirements.

Public involvement has taken place as part of this ongoing Coeur d'Alene Reservation Fisheries Enhancement project. The Coeur d'Alene publish a quarterly newsletter that is distributed to 800 Reservation residents and local agencies, as well as made available in public locations. Public meetings have been held in the affected watersheds and with individual landowners. Interagency workgroups meet on a quarterly basis, which include local conservation agencies.

Findings: The project is generally consistent with Section 7.6A.2, 7.6B.3, & 7.8E.1, of the Northwest Power Planning Council's Fish and Wildlife Program. This Supplement Analysis finds 1) that the proposed actions are substantially consistent with the Watershed Management Program EIS (DOE/EIS-0265) and ROD, and, 2) that there are no new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns and bearing on the proposed actions or their impacts. Therefore, no further NEPA documentation is required.

/s/ Kelly Mason

Kelly Mason

Environmental Specialist

CONCUR:

/s/ Robert W. Beraud for

Thomas C. McKinney

NEPA Compliance Officer

DATE: 10/1/03

Attachments:

NEPA Compliance Checklist

Environmental Site Assessment

ESA, CWA, Stormwater Permits/Authorizations

cc: (w/o attachments)

Mr. Angelo Vitale – Coeur d'Alene Tribe